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in the German language, the effect of which is virtually to prohibit such meetings in Poland, Alsace-Lorraine and Schleswig-Holstein. There is no freedom of teaching since private schools are hardly tolerated. In 1911 there were only 480 such schools in all the empire.

Altogether, M. Barthélemy's analysis of German political institutions is both interesting and convincing. It ought to be translated into English and made available for the use of American students generally. It contains evidence in abundance to substantiate the frequent charges made by President Wilson in his addresses that the real German government is an autocracy and that the Prussian is "a natural enemy of liberty."

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The French Assembly of 1848 and American Constitutional Doctrines. By EUGENE NEWTON CURTIS, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Modern European History at Goucher College. (Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, LXXIX, No. 2. New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1918. Pp. 357.)

This book in the main represents an attempt to trace the influence of American institutions and political ideas upon the French between 1789 and 1850, and especially upon the framers of the republican constitution of 1848. As a sort of background for his study the author starts out with an introductory chapter on Europe and America in 1848 in which he contrasts the political and economic conditions of the United States and France and attempts to evaluate the influence of the American Constitution upon France prior to 1848. He admits that Franklin (who had a collection of American constitutions published in France), Jefferson, and especially Lafayette exerted some influence upon the early constitutional development of France; but his conclusion that American influence was very slight is probably a sound one. Between 1830 and 1848, however, this influence was more marked. Coming to the revolution of 1848 and the work of the national assembly which framed the constitution of that year, the author calls attention to the sympathy which the establishment of the republic elicited in America as shown by the congratulatory resolutions passed by both houses of Congress, the adoption of addresses of felicitation by various bodies and the frequent references in Fourth of July orations of that year to the overthrow of the

monarchy and the setting up of the republic in France. It may also be remarked that the Democratic national convention which nominated Cass for President in 1848 adopted a long resolution congratulating the French upon the establishment of republican institutions.

There is evidence also of an awakened interest among the French in the American Constitution. De Tocqueville's *Démocratie en Amérique* was more widely read than ever, collections of American constitutions were now published in French, newspaper articles summarizing and discussing the American Constitution were common, and some new books dealing with American institutions appeared at this time, the most notable being Chevalier's *Études sur la Constitution des États-Unis*, originally published as a series of articles in the *Journal des Débats*. Naturally not all the newspaper discussion of the American Constitution was favorable. The legitimist press was generally anti-American, and it protested against the idea of the French imitating the Americans. In the debates of the national assembly there were frequent references to the American Constitution—at least thirty the author says,—and especially during the discussion of the presidency and the question of a second chamber, American example was often cited.

The general conclusion of the author is that American influence upon the assembly was slight. A comparison of the French constitution of 1848 with that of the United States suggests, he says, certain analogies but in many cases the resemblance was accidental. If American example exerted any influence at all, it was upon those provisions dealing with the presidency and possibly the bicameral structure of the legislature. As stated above, the legitimists were strongly opposed to American example in any form; the former Orleanist party, however, felt much more sympathy for it.

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Diplomatic Documents Relating to the Outbreak of the European War. Edited with an introduction by JAMES BROWN SCOTT, Director of the Division of International Law, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Two volumes. (New York: Oxford University Press. 1916. Pp. lxxxi, xcii, 1516.)

Although more attention is now being directed to problems of reconstruction after the war than to the causes which led up to it, the latter nevertheless will always constitute an important and interesting study.